



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**DAVID BOWEN**  
10TH DISTRICT

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

July 10, 2015

Governor Scott Walker  
115 East Capitol

*Hand Delivered*

Dear Governor Walker,

I am writing to ask that you immediately call a state of emergency and exercise your executive powers to respond rapidly to the escalating public health epidemic of gun violence that continues to take lives in the City of Milwaukee and throughout the state of Wisconsin.

This week, ten deaths occurred over the course of just seven days, pushing the number of homicides in Milwaukee to an estimated 84 this year, nearly surpassing the total for all of 2014 and doubling the amount that had occurred by this time last year. These repeated episodes of violence devastate families and traumatize those who live, work, and play in the neighborhoods and communities in which the violence occurs. The situation has continued to spiral out of control, and it is clear that immediate, decisive action is required to prevent further bloodshed and loss of life.

I ask that, in consultation with the Department of Health Services, you deploy trauma informed care specialists, psychologists, and grief counselors to the families and neighborhoods that have been traumatized by these repeated tragedies. These citizens' right to safety and a high quality of life must be restored and supported through public and private partnerships that confront this crisis. Furthermore, I ask that you do everything in your power to curtail the flow of guns to Milwaukee youth and repeat offenders who attain guns from straw purchases, and that you call for an analysis of fiscal allocations to preventative versus punitive response efforts in order to identify needed changes to how we react to these incidents.

These incidents in our state and throughout our nation confirm what many of us already know – that our country is in desperate need of common-sense reforms to gun laws to prevent guns from falling into the wrong hands. However, as we work to achieve those statutory goals, the situation in Milwaukee demands a rapid response in the form of trauma mitigation services. No matter our political differences, we must act to help our residents heal, because if we ignore this pain, those whose lives have been disrupted by this violence may act irrationally, leading to further harm.

It is my sincere hope that we will be able to work together to find a solution to this crisis so that additional lives are not needlessly lost. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Bowen".

David Bowen  
State Representative  
10<sup>th</sup> Assembly District